



de maximis, inc.

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February 15, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 141 – January 2019
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS)
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On January 29, EPA Region 2 (Region 2) and CPG held a teleconference to review the status of the Bioaccumulation (Food Web) Model (FWM) calibration status.
- On January 30, Region 2, CPG and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) held a meeting to discuss the Upper 9-Mile Interim Remedy (IR) Feasibility Study (FS).

Correspondence

- On January 2, CPG provided consultant contact information to Region 2 oversight consultants for Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry Survey.
- On January 3, CPG provided a revised IR FS Work Plan to Region 2 consultants and the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), on behalf of Region 2.
- On January 4, Region 2 consultants provided comments on the FWM calibration to CPG.

Ms. D. Salkie

LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 141 – January 2019

February 15, 2019

Page 2 of 4

- On January 7 and 8, CPG and Region 2 exchanged emails regarding Region 2 comments on the revised Draft 17-Mile Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment (BERA).
- On January 10, CPG provided a summary of the Draft 17-Mile Remedial Investigation (RI) Report revision status to USACE.
- On January 14, CPG and Region 2 consultants exchanged emails regarding FWM inputs.
- On January 15, USACE, responding on behalf of Region 2, informed CPG that a clarification of the comments on the revised Draft Revised 17-Mile BERA would have to wait until Region 2 is in a position to provide responses.
- On January 15, CPG delivered the December Monthly Progress Report to Region 2.
- On January 17, CPG provided technical justification for selection of a multiplier for the determination of subsurface Remedial Action Levels (RALs) to Region 2.
- On January 21, CPG and USACE exchanged emails regarding weather and river conditions impacting the Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry Survey schedule.
- On January 21, USACE acknowledged postponement of the Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry Survey due to weather and river conditions.
- On January 23, USACE provided preliminary comments on the Draft Revised 17-Mile RI Report Appendix O to CPG.
- On January 24, USACE provided preliminary comments on the Draft Revised 17-Mile RI Report Section 10 to CPG.
- On January 28, CPG requested Lower 8-Mile Bathymetry Survey data from Region 2.
- On January 28, Region 2 requested the addition of a topic to the scheduled January 29, 2019 FWM calibration teleconference agenda.
- On January 29, Region 2 notified CPG that the Region 2 consultant would be providing the results of the Lower 8-Mile Bathymetry Survey to CPG on a thumb drive on January 30, 2019.
- On January 29, Region 2 provided an updated agenda for the January 30 IR FS meeting to CPG.
- On January 30, Region 2 provided meeting minutes from FS meetings #7 and #8 and a list of action items from these meetings to CPG.
- On January 30, Region 2 consultant provided the presentation from the January 29, 2019 FWM teleconference to CPG.
- On January 31, CPG provided an updated schedule for the Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry Survey to Region 2.

Work

- CPG continued work to address Region 2's comments on the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report and Model Appendices.
- CPG revised the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS Work Plan Addendum.
- CPG continued to develop IR FS supporting documents.
- CPG continued revision of the Draft BERA in response to minor Region 2 comments.

Ms. D. Salkie
LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 141 – January 2019
February 15, 2019
Page 3 of 4

- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the LPR Bioaccumulation Model.

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

- None.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue work on the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report and Model Appendices in response to Region 2 comments. Appendix P (Bioaccumulation Modeling) has been partially revised, but additional work on calibration issues is required to complete the revision.
- CPG will continue to support HDR's review of the calibration of the LPR/Newark Bay CFT Model.
- CPG will continue revising and calibrating the LPR Bioaccumulation Model pursuant to Region 2 comments.
- CPG will continue work on Newark Bay Model documentation.
- CPG will continue participation in meetings and conference calls with Region 2 and NJDEP to prepare the Upper 9-Mile Interim Remedy FS Addendum.
- CPG will initiate modeling projections for the IR FS.
- CPG has re-scheduled the Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry Survey to start on February 17 due to weather and river conditions.

(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.

- Other Documents – Region 2 and CPG are working on finalizing the outstanding documents.

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Law or me at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.


Willard Potter
CPG Project Coordinator

Ms. D. Salkie

LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 141 – January 2019

February 15, 2019

Page 4 of 4

cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel
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